printed on recycled paper

OPEN MINDS

a collective zine - JUNE 2011 SUMMER ISSUE # 1

interviews with

CRITICAL POINT

UNVEIL

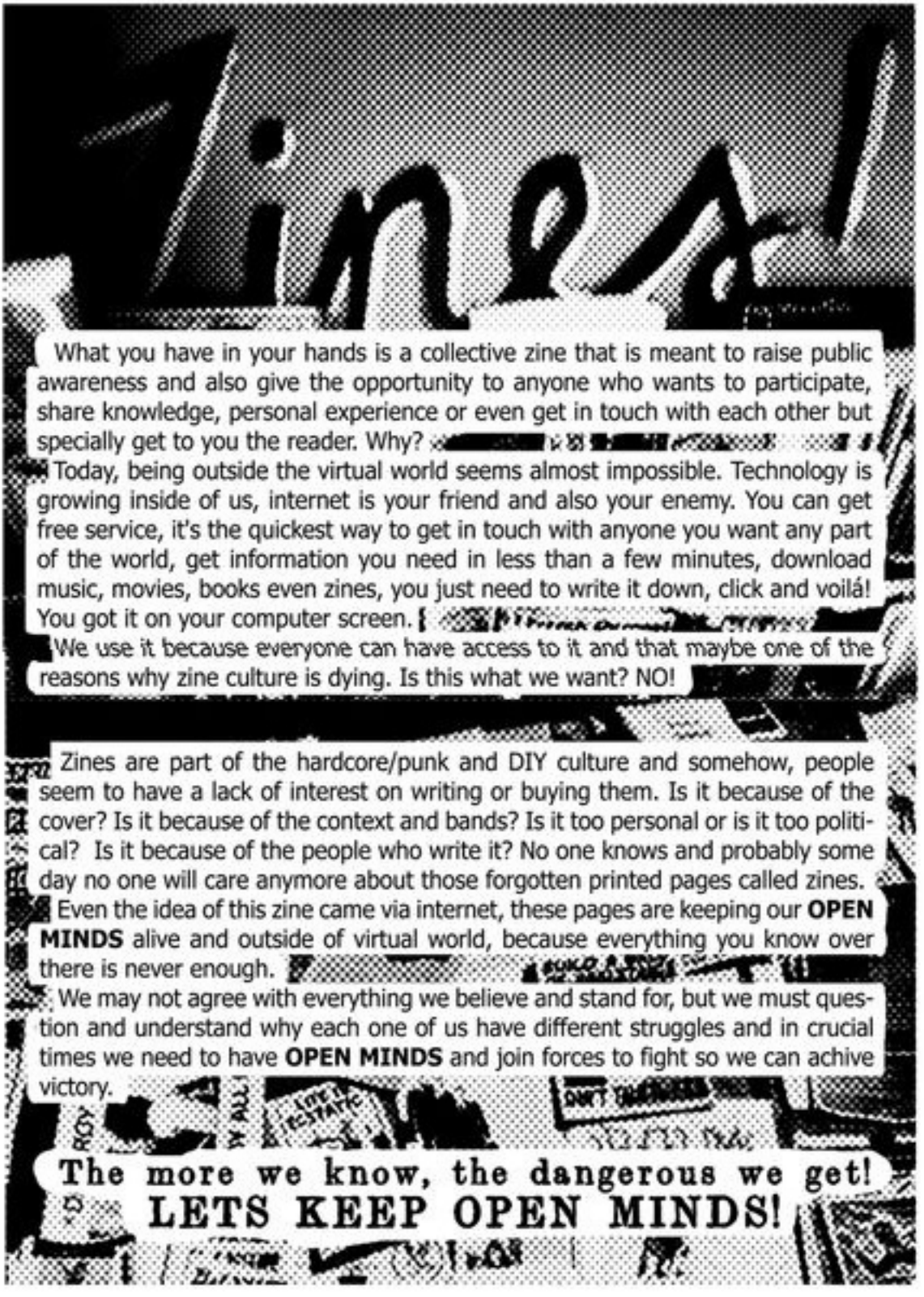
LIMP MIKE

XVX

WRIST

plus personal texts

THE MORE WE KNOW THE DANGEROUS WE GET


Zines!
What you have in your hands is a collective zine that is meant to raise public awareness and also give the opportunity to anyone who wants to participate, share knowledge, personal experience or even get in touch with each other but specially get to you the reader. Why?
Today, being outside the virtual world seems almost impossible. Technology is growing inside of us, internet is your friend and also your enemy. You can get free service, it's the quickest way to get in touch with anyone you want any part of the world, get information you need in less than a few minutes, download music, movies, books even zines, you just need to write it down, click and voilá! You got it on your computer screen.
We use it because everyone can have access to it and that maybe one of the reasons why zine culture is dying. Is this what we want? NO!
Zines are part of the hardcore/punk and DIY culture and somehow, people seem to have a lack of interest on writing or buying them. Is it because of the cover? Is it because of the context and bands? Is it too personal or is it too political? Is it because of the people who write it? No one knows and probably some day no one will care anymore about those forgotten printed pages called zines.
Even the idea of this zine came via internet, these pages are keeping our **OPEN MINDS** alive and outside of virtual world, because everything you know over there is never enough.
We may not agree with everything we believe and stand for, but we must question and understand why each one of us have different struggles and in crucial times we need to have **OPEN MINDS** and join forces to fight so we can achive victory.
The more we know, the dangerous we get!
LETS KEEP OPEN MINDS!

THE VEGAN POLICE

BREAKING CAGES, BREAKING RITUALS

"Crime is naught but misdirected energy. So long as every institution of today, economic, political, social, and moral, conspires to misdirect human energy into wrong channels; so long as most people are out of place doing the things they hate to do, living a life they loathe to live, crime will be inevitable, and all the laws on the statutes can only increase, but never do away with, crime." - Emma Goldman

I don't meet a lot of sXe folks who connect their sobriety to a larger political or social context. (Some call this a phenomenon specific to North America or the West, the internalized hyper individualized *"choice."*) As I place my own sobriety within a context that I feel is liberatory, that pool seems to shrink and dry up to a drop. For the vegan straight edge folks that I do know, some still hold tight to their convictions as a form of refuge, a shelter from an inhospitable world. For those who actively engage in political struggle and liberation, veganism is generally seen as the more important issue.

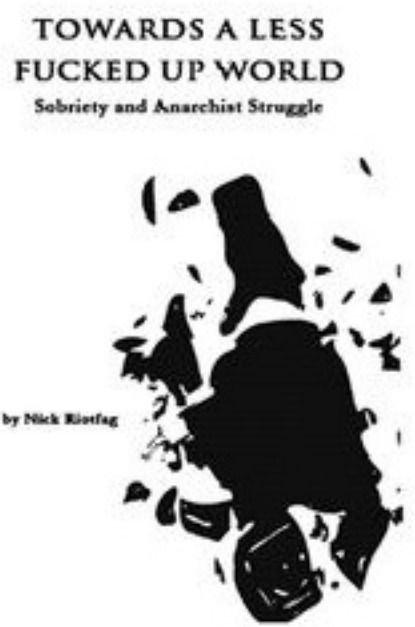
Most folks know an entry point when it comes to protesting animal en-

terprise industries and the theories and ideas seem easier to grasp. Realistically speaking, one only needs to empathize on an individual level with any non human species in order to acknowledge that they are ends unto themselves. Although we are all raised within speciesist cultures, our *"moral schizophrenia"* surrounding different animals at least allows the vast majority to look upon some animals as "cute", even if it means looking away at the institutionalized use and abuse that we perpetrate. But what of the junkie? What of the addict? What of the criminal?

If we reject the human/animal binary and recognize the inherent worth of ALL species, then have to also work towards a vision which recognizes a cage, is a cage, is a cage, is a cage. What follows is a plea to recognize criminality and it's interesection in vegan straight edge thought.

Use and abuse are mutually supportive. Most animal rights advocates understand that statement and recognize it as the largest issue in talking with omnivores or *"carnists"*. The connection that institutionalized and normalized *"use"* is *"abuse"* and vice versa, is the wall we constantly hammer away at in a society where the vast majority of people are complicit in animal exploitation but also see themselves as kind to animals. Carnism, a term developed by Melanie Joy, exposes this structure as a larger system which must constantly perpetuate itself as normal, natural and a necessity in order to maintain its hold.

Conversely, sXe authors like Nick Riotfag also point to the larger systems which uphold intoxicant use, naming it *"intoxication culture"*, a set of institutions, behaviors, and mindsets centered around the consumption of drugs and alcohol. Just as most see themselves as kind-good-hearted citizens as they sit down to their meal of animal flesh, most people do not question their use of intoxicants. There are many ways in which we work to re enforce that constructed boundary around *"use"* and *"abuse"*, and also many ways in which intoxicants and animal exploitation, human and non human, intersect (the drug/exotic animal trade, the vivisection and pharmaceutical industries, etc.) but the one I want to talk about is criminality.



The use of normative definitions of *"crime"* to re enforce and cloud exploitation.

Last year I intently covered an undercover animal cruelty case in Conklin, Ohio. The footage from the investigation was horrific to say the least. I prided myself on being the first animal rights news source to cover the initial arrest of Billy Joe Gregg Jr. (I got the press release direct from the Mayor after calling for charges). I knew the investigation wasn't going to

destroy the dairy industry, but I held hope for the video as an outreach tool (I still do) and figured that if the industry was going to offer up one *"bad apple"* as a sacrifice then at least that is something (as opposed to the usual nothing.)

Around the same time there was a horrific cruelty case here locally, as people broke into a city run petting zoo, decapitated some of the small animals and played target practice with their bb guns with the larger animals. I watched in utter disbelief as a communities outrage (and the outrage was significant) quickly funneled into efforts to throw a BBQ Fundraiser. I simply could not deal with the notion that so many people could not make the simple connection between the animals they would eat and the animals that they were attempting to memorialize. Every single person at that BBQ would recognize the actions of Billy Joe Gregg Jr. as *"criminal"* and *"evil"*.
It took me a while to realize that the BBQ itself served as a ritual to re enforce that boundary. It didn't matter that to the animals involved there was no distinction, it just mattered that the people involved could justify their own actions towards animals and the more people involved the better. This is a grave concern for a movement which is gaining tract in pushing for stiffer penalties for animal "abusers."

Will those penalties value the worth of an individual animal, or will they further re enforce the boundary between the animal abuser and the animal user?

For those who have studied drug addiction, drug policies, the *"War on Drugs"* or harm reduction models, it is blatantly obvious that our society constantly uses criminality to re enforce and normalize boundaries around intoxicants. There are the legally sanctioned intoxicants; alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs, as well as the illegally sanctioned intoxicants; cocaine, heroin, cannabis, etc. What intoxicants you use and your risk of being criminalized for it,

is generally determined by an intersection of dominance around race/gender/class, etc. We build super prisons, destroy and obliterate communities, perpetuate an endless cycle of poverty and repression all in a desperate attempt to enforce oppression. Intoxicants become a very easy tool with which to do this because constant oppression and violence provide ample environments for their use.

Some friends who use intoxicants understand this process but still seem baffled at how this implicates them. They drink *"responsibly"* or smoke marijuana *"recreationally"*. Again, use and abuse are mutually supportive. People refuse to acknowledge the fact that the boundary between *"use"* and *"abuse"* is entirely arbitrary, as in, if they were born into a different area, with a different class and different race their *"use"* could immediately be constructed as *"abuse"*. Their use may seem innocuous to them, but that *"choice"* is more indicative of privilege than anything else.

The status quo re ensures this boundary and offers no political action in solidarity to those who are *"criminalized"*, nor does it do anything to normalize sobriety or any kind of resistance.

Picture your desire for a glass of wine each night, but now picture yourself as homeless. Immediately your *"use"* is criminalized.

Even after that point there is a massive void left for those who see their sobriety as a response or disengagement from this oppression; how does one advocate against it beyond a personal stance of abstention?

This is where a cage is a cage. For those versed in animal rights philosophy this is not a massive leap, we need to disengage from *"use"* and work to help those who suffer from this oppression. Carefully highlighting intersections, assisting with those touched hardest by addiction and repression and working towards environments where intoxicants are not only de-criminalized, but unwanted and unnecessary. How do we start?

We can start by breaking cages and directing our energies at the prison industrial complex, an industry that enslaves humans as well as non humans. Abolishing Animal Enterprise includes abolishing prisons. A prison is a zoo, a zoo is a prison. (Anyone care to enumerate the unending amount of *"prison"* media that we construct in movies and television). These prisons offer us a chance to re enforce privilege as well as ritualize and normalize oppres-

sion. We need to break those rituals. We need to reclaim and normalize sobriety as a site of resistance and we need to reach out to those who face oppression; be that protesting zoo's, prisons, or working within the community to advance harm reduction or create sober vegan communities.

I am sure at this point many are scratching their heads. No prisons?!? What about rapists, murderers and sadistic animal abusers?

We are the only animal to construct prisons. What is their political and social value? This is a larger point for the future, but something I hope people dwell on before dismissing off hand.

I know this flies directly in the face of the sXe gang looking for drug dealers to beat up, but these are serious questions that have to be asked. Who's needs do these laws serve and to what extent have they ever been a deterrent or solution for the numerous economic, social, cultural, political problems which exist?

In the end, I dream of a fantasy world wherein living beings are treated with respect and dignity and no one feels the need to take intoxicants. That is the dream that I try to live every day, even if I have to live it in a very inhospitable world and do it relatively alone.

For those who recognize and empathize with the imprisoned animal, please think hard about extending that empathy to members of your own species who find themselves in similar situations.

For those who recognize the negative consequences of a culture that prizes intoxication, please use your knowledge of one system of oppression and exploitation and recognize others.

For those who are vegan straight edge, please resist the urge to place these convictions in competition with each other or present them as mere *"choices"*; your resistance is paramount in highlighting these systems of oppression and this path is one of the most rewarding paths on the road to liberation.

xo, Dylan
The Vegan Police

http://theveganpolice.com - http://www.facebook.com/theveganpolice

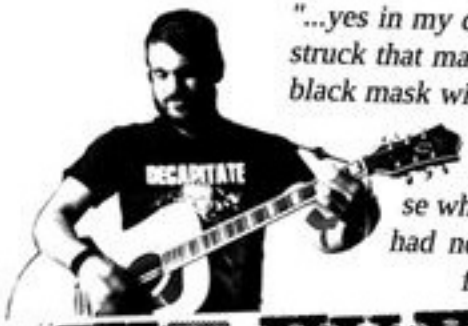
Born into a planet full of hate,
i'm still here being chased.
Until now i have endured,
but my destiny is unsured.

Trying to keep my head up high,
Life is not what seeem's to be.
Concrete walls and deceiving eyes
So many traps to imprison me.

Hate is not my fuel,
i'm trying to fly away from it.
I jump high and reach the sky
But end up landing in shit.

Oh life, just let me know
what have you planned for me?
I'm here ready to fight
and still ready for it.

written by: MINDS ON



"...yes in my dreams I threw that brick and yes in my dreams I struck that match and yes those were my blue eyes behind that black mask wire cutters and electrical times filled my backpack can you hear those screams when you close your eyes does your heart feel the suffering for all those who died this career you never wanted you said you had no choice but now we call for vengeance but there's fire in our voice..." That Night I Dreamt of Arson

MIKE XVX

FOLK PUNK

interview by s.raiva

mikexvx.blogspot.com

myspace.com/mikexvx

What can you tell us about yourself?

My name is Mike XVX, I'm 24 years old and I grew up in a town called Santa Barbara, CA. I've been sober my whole life, but I've claimed straight edge for over 10 years now. I've been vegan for 6 years and have been active in the Animal Rights movement ever since. I enjoy skateboarding, riding my bike, organizing and attending demonstrations, listening to and playing music, and of course spending time with animals.

I currently live in the Northwest and I split most of my time between Portland, OR and Nanaimo, BC.

You've been giving some interviews because you and 2 other activists were in Japan volunteering with the Sea Shepherd Cove Guardian campaign when the tsunami happened. Being in that situation what did you felt what was going to happen with the campaign?

After the Tsunami hit Otsuchi we were really only concerned with saving our own lives. We were the closest to the epicenter when the earthquake first hit, and we made it to high ground about 20 seconds before the water first reached the shore. There was less than 1% of the houses still remaining in Otsuchi by the end of it, and more than half the population was dead..including the mayor. We could see across the harbor that the Fisherman's Union, where they slaughtered a few thousand Dall's Porpoises a year, was completely destroyed along with a few of the hunter boats.

We knew there was no more campaign to work on, so we hiked our bags up on our shoulders and trekked across the ruined city and eventually out of Japan.

After that natural disaster you guys left and your campaign was cancelled, right? Are you planning to return to Japan for a new one?

The town that we were in, Otsuchi (Iwate prefecture) may actually never be rebuilt. There's been talk of abandoning the town altogether, because there is literally nothing left of it. But farther south in Taiji (Wakeyama prefecture)

太地のイルカ達を守って

Protect the Taiji Dolphins!

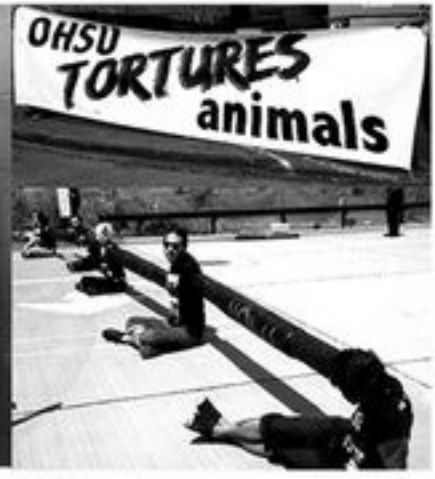
there was very little damage to the town's infrastructure. In fact, the only lives lost were those of the dolphins that are kept in pens near the towns harbor. When the water rose up that day it lifted them onto the jagged cliff rocks. The *"fisherman"* AKA dolphin molesters waited until the dolphins bled to death, or bashed them on the heads and then slaughtered them. We've received reports that you could hear the screams of the dolphins all through the town as they died.

We expect Taiji will continue with it's dolphin slaughter and live captive dolphin trade, and if they do I plan on returning to Japan with Sea Shepherd to document and help shut it down.

human primates and other animals. They do tests for alcoholism research, obesity caused illnesses and even things as silly as the stress of an infant living with a single parent.

I could go on for pages about this, so I'll get to the point. All animal research is not only inherently cruel to non-human animals, but also incredibly dangerous for humans and an enormous waste of tax-payer dollars.

We locked down in front of this lab to let people know how much of a disgrace to the scientific community OHSU and the ONPRC really are. The ONPRC currently houses more than 4,000 non-human primates. I had the privilege of meeting one of these primates recently,



Being an activist in America, you always can expect to go to jail for less. Sometime ago you and others were arrested for lockdown ourselves blocking the entrance of Oregon National Primate Research Center, right? Want to share that story?

In the Summer of 2010 myself and 4 other activists constructed lock boxes and locked down in front of a primate testing lab called the ONPRC.

ONPRC is an acronym for the Oregon National Primate Research Center which is a branch of Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland, OR. There's been a long-running campaign against OHSU and their disgusting and wasteful experiments on non-

her name is Riley and she was severely deprived of water during the experiments (read: torture) she was put through. She managed to make it out of OHSU alive, and now lives at a wonderful place called Oregon Primate Rescue (*http://www.oregonprimaterescue.com/*)

I hope this lab will shut down within my lifetime, nothing would give me greater pleasure!

A small change is still a change. Do you find yourself sometimes hard to keep struggling even when nothing seems to changes? What continues to inspire you?

I often question my contributions to the animal rights movement, and occasionally get in the mindset that nothing I'm doing matters or is

making even the slightest difference. As I'm sure others will tell you, it's so frustrating to put all of your heart into something and not see immediate results. I can't let that deter me, and if anything I find the mental roadblocks to be helpful because they push me to work harder. Even if it's out of desperation. Whether or not all our hard work is going to waste and we're just spinning our own wheels, I still wouldn't feel satisfied in knowing the things that I know and not doing anything to stop it.

I couldn't live with myself if I sat back and did nothing to help those animals that are in need.

"Big brother is watching you"
George Orwell *"1984"*

The system is growing and it's not a paranoid thing, you can see and feel that everything you do is being watch and control. Do you feel safe with having CCTV in every corner?

Do I feel safe? No, but if we want to grow we have to accept the new challenges that are presented to us. It's incredibly stressful to feel like you're constantly under surveillance, but I think as a movement we can find (and have found) ways around it. Here in the United States an unidentified person on a bicycle planted a bomb in front of an Army recruitment center in Times Square, New York. It is one of the most heavily surveilled areas in North America, if not the world, and yet this person who blew up part of a government building was never found or identified. I'm not encouraging anyone to take part in such actions, per se, but I do think it's a good example of adapting to new situations.

One of the main reasons surveillance is so effective is because of the psychological effects it has on the target. I recommend people read *"Welcome to the Machine"* by Derrick Jensen and George Draffan. It's an extensive and thorough book about nano-technology and surveillance, though a lot of it is pretty horrifying.

No matter how much they try to control us, we always find our way and shoplifters have more fun and we'll slowly bring the system down, true?

There was a time when I shoplifted strictly as a political statement, and would often play games with loss prevention and really push it to see how far I could go. When I first got into it I was in my early teens. I was homeless and broke; so for me shoplifting and dumpstering food was not only a fun pastime but also essential to my survival. I still have no qualms about taking stuff from Whole Foods whenever I'm presented the opportunity, but I don't think that what I'm doing really has an effect on them as an industry…it's mostly because I'm poor, can't afford food sometimes or just don't feel like I should have to pay for it. I don't care much when people try to argue that it's unethical to steal from a company, no matter how large, and it

doesn't make me hesitate for a second about taking things if I need them. Whole Foods, Walmart, Target or whoever are industries that exist to make profits, not to provide quality food and items at reasonable prices like they insist.

They honestly do not give a fuck about our well-being or our health. If they have something that you need then take it, what they lose (if anything) is minuscule compared to the hoops that people have to jump through to feed themselves.

Capitalism is capitalism.

In an interview, there was a question about gluten-free being political and is not good for our digestion, right? Talk about your personal experience and do you think everyone should go gluten free?

I've read studies that suggest over 80% of adults are gluten intolerant, and a small percentage of those people have celiac disease. Even those who have ancestors in the fertile crescent, who were the first to cultivate and consume wheat, haven't physically evolved to break down gluten properly.

I just think it's important for us to take care of ourselves and of each other. There's a lot of shitty food out there that can cause long term damage to us if we're not careful about what we eat. Nearly everything we eat contains wheat or some other form of gluten, so a lot of us haven't lived for an extended period of time without it and really seen the effect it has on our physical health.

I recommend enjoying raw fruits and vegetables as often as you can!

You live a vegan straight edge and god free. What were the reasons and what did inspired you to go with those decisions? And how do you apply DIY in your life?

I've been sober my whole life, and that was always an easy choice for me because I grew up in a very violent and drug addicted/alcoholic household. I had associated alcoholism with domestic violence, marital rape, child abuse and many other dark areas of human behavior, so for me to keep away from that was always an easy choice. I started claiming straight edge when I was 14 because I realized there was a whole community of people my age that were taking a stand against intoxication, and for the first time in my life I didn't feel constantly criticized or uncomfortable for not being interested in harming myself in that way.

X X X
STRAIGHT EDGE

As for veganism, I've always felt a strong affinity and connection with animals. I was unaware of the suffering that went on behind closed doors, and when I realized that my diet was directly connected to that it was an easy transition. I was 18 years old at the time, had been vegetarian for maybe a year and just stated out loud to myself *"I'm going vegan today"*, and stayed solidly since.

I think Veganism is the most ethical choice for your personal health, the health of the environment and the lives of non-human animals. Best decision I've ever made in my life.

VEGANISM
★★★ LOVE, RESPECT, COMPASSION

I am proud to say that I've been an atheist since the 4th grade. My parents were somewhat religious growing up, and I started questioning the existence of God at a young age because of my upbringing. Throughout junior high and Highschool I took an active interest in studying religions, and since Christianity is so prominent in the United States that was my main area of education. I would constantly ask youth pastors, preachers or anyone I considered to maybe have an answer to satisfy my question of *"Why do bad things happen to good people?"*. I wanted to get their perspective on my situation, and maybe form a solution to the problems I was facing.

The only response I have ever got, to this day mind you, is that it's all part of God's plan, and that I should continue to honor my father and mother. Well, being beaten at home and witnessing members of my family being raped did not seem like a great plan to me, so I began to look at things in a very different light. Christianity, in my mind, is without a doubt one of the most violent and oppressive belief systems that humans have ever created.

For me it represents the domination of the natural world, the assimilation and oppression of indigenous peoples, and the foundation for homophobic, racist, sexist and speciesist ideologies.

I'm supportive of everyones right to their own beliefs, but I'm not going to tolerate intolerance. I'm not going to respect someone's right to take away the rights of others.

DIY ethics have always been important to me, because it reinforces the confidence that I am capable of doing things my way. It's empowering to know that you're capable of steering your life in the direction that you want, and you really can be the master of your own destiny.

Growing up, never once did I think I'd have half the opportunities that I've been given over the past few years. I've traveled to 20 countries in the past year and a half, simply from music and animal rights activism. I attribute this to thinking positive, staying sober, finding alternative routes and manifesting my own future.

DO IT YOURSELF

No Fucking Whey! Tell us a little about it and what's is going on at the moment. Any other projects or collectives that you're currently involved with?

No Fucking Whey! is a label and blog that I started a few years ago with the intention of supporting vegan bands that carry an animal rights message.

I've been really busy this past year with a lot

of other projects, but I'm going to be doing a 7" release with GoxRecords! later this year that I'm really excited about. Other than No Fucking Whey! I'm an active supporter and volunteer with Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, with both Vancouver, BC and Portland, OR Animal Defense League, and work with rescued animals on a farm in British Columbia.

Your guitar is another weapon you picked to give voice to the fights you stand. In the past you were in some bands. What were the reasons to start this acoustic project?

I'd been in a ton of punk and hardcore bands growing up, usually as the singer but played guitar, bass or drums in a few of them. I loved how expressive music could be, and for a long time it was a great outlet for me to vent my frustrations and my pain. The scene changed dramatically throughout and after Highschool though, and eventually I found that I didn't fit in with my old friends anymore ideologically or socially.

I wanted to play music that was representative of my beliefs, because it was during this time that I was being exposed to a lot of new, radical ideas and wanted to apply them to my life. The punk and hardcore scene was growing incredibly apolitical (at best having vague politics) so I decided I wanted to branch out and do my own thing. I started playing acoustic music because of my love of musicians such as Woody Guthrie, Elliott Smith, Bright Eyes and because of the convenience of being able to play shows and tour when you're a single person with an acoustic instrument.

Do you think that accoustic music makes people pay more attention and listen what you have to say, rather than an hardcore band?

I definitely think it reaches a different crowd, not that it makes people pay more attention. I grew up in the punk and hardcore scene, so for me that had huge impact on my life and I know it's the same for a lot of people as well. I just think it's unfortunate that people aren't getting exposed to the awesome messages and ethics punk music promotes because they don't like the music. I hope to see more of a rise of *'alternative'* Vegan Straight Edge music.

In other words Vegan Straight Edge music outside of the typical mid-90's hardcore paradigm.

Girls are growing in the hardcore / punk music scene. They have bands, they run distros and write zines. But other girls are just there on shows to check out the boys or in other words give a more girly look. What do you think about girls being active and girls trying to fit in only with their looks?

I think it's important to put your ethics into action, and reducing a forward thinking movement to a social club, dating scene or fashion show is unacceptable.

We're living in too dangerous of time to exist with ambiguous beliefs, and we all need to make it clear on where we stand. I've seen a lot of people drift in and out of the scene over the years who come in, socialize, compete for at-

tention and affection and then dramatically exit as quickly as they came.

There's a reason why we use words like *"alternative"* or *"underground"* to describe our scenes, because it largely rejects the trends of mainstream thinking.

I'm excited that there are some awesome and strong women out there holding it down in what's been historically such a male dominated scene, and I hope that this momentum brings us into a new era of gender equality.

I've met some rad XVX ladies in the past few years who definitely keep it real!

After a show does anyone aboard you to question or criticize your lyrics. And in our opinion, what are the most important messages someone can take after seeing you play?

I've had a lot of discussions through the past years with people at shows, but have only had a few actual conflicts here and there. I only get upset and argue with people if they're overtly trying to be disrespectful or confrontational, which I will not tolerate at all. I don't mind if people possess different opinions than my own, but there are ways to communicate those disagreements without being offensive.

I'd say the most important message I would like people to take from my shows is that animals deserve respect and compassion, and that speciesism is no better than racism or sexism.

Last year (2010) you toured Australia and Europe (with xTrue Naturex). Both of you share the same struggles but musically different. Europe is still adapting to acoustic music and your music is punk/folk. What were your expections and how was the respond you got while being a newbie playing over here?

I had very little expectations for when I came to Europe, I was convinced that no one had ever heard my music or would take that much of an interest in it when I toured with Keegan. I was pleasantly surprised by the response I got, and I felt incredibly welcomed everywhere I went.

I was amazed that a lot of kids actually knew the words to a lot of my songs. I kept a journal throughout the tour and Radix Media (*http://radixmedia.org/*) published it into a zine a few weeks after I got back, which people seemed to be excited about.

When can we aspect a new realease and will you come back for another European tour anytime soon?

Well I have a new 7" coming out on No Fucking Whey!/GoxRecords! with all new songs and I'm hoping to do another European tour later this year. I've been so busy with animal rights stuff that I'm not sure if this will become

a reality though.

To anyone reading this: feel free to shoot me an email if you are able to help out with another European tour!

As a musician and activist you tour and travel a lot. This a very important part and helps out to get all those messages to people, explain and in same way *"educate"* them so they can understand what are we trying to change. Being anti-civ, what are your feelings about catching flights in order to get yourself in front of a battle line?

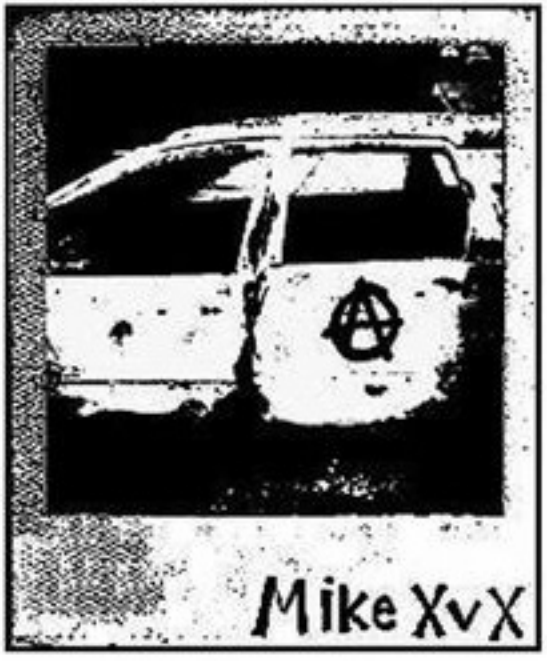
I am not proud of having to fly so often to do tours and animal rights campaigns, but we live in a time where we have to adapt to our surroundings and use the resources that are available to us. I'd like to think that my impact outweighs the waste that those airplanes create, but I can't be certain of that. If there were reasonable alternatives to get from continent to continent I would be interested in trying them out. Some people take pleasure in pointing out the hypocrisies in my life, and they're welcome to do that because I assure you there are plenty.

Though I do have to point out to some of them that an omnivorous diet is by far the most destructive, wasteful personal choice you could ever make. Though I won't use that as an excuse to not try harder to conserve, maybe I'll hop a freighter ship to Europe this year?

***"Humanity is not the the problem, it's civilization"* comment on that**

I consider myself a post-civilization anarchist, but not a primitivist. I don't think we can completely return to the society that primitivism promotes, and I don't think there is any one answer to live sustainably on the planet.

Humans lived in harmony on this planet for thousands of years, and have destroyed it only in the past couple hundred due to industrialization. I see civilization, as it's currently manifested, and overpopulation as a hinderance to the health of the planet. But ultimately I don't think humans as a species are the problem, we've learned destructive habits and we can unlearn them just the same.



"...We'll build the world we want to see, I'm positive we can won't ask again" - Tonight We Ride

Someday soon this might come true in your opinion do you thing it's going to be too late?

Maybe too late to save our own species, but I don't think it's too late to save the planet.

I'm confident that the planet can recover from all the damage that we've done, with or without us, though it may take a few million years. I'm mostly concerned with the health of the planet, the continuation of our species is not of the utmost importance to me.

Life will go on long after we're gone.

Any last words?

Keep yourself motivated to help out animals in need: use your talents, hone your skills and stay pissed!

There's a lot of injustice and inequality in this world and we need to resist it every chance we get!
Fight back!!!

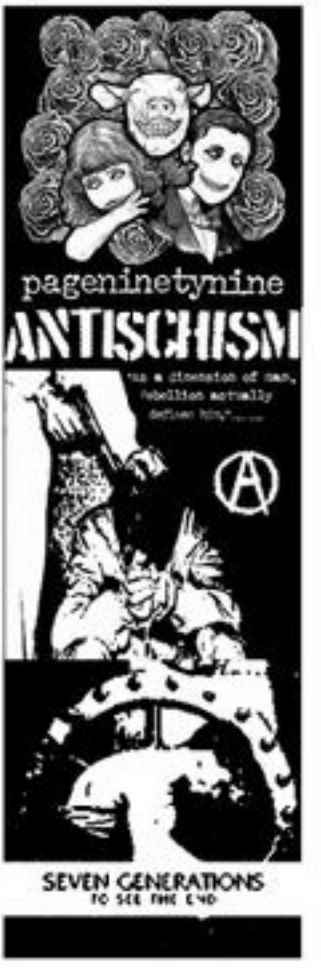
Thanks you Mike for taking some of your time to answer this interview!

MIKE XVX

TOP 3

It's never easy to top everything in your life, but right now name 3 (and if you want to, explain why):

3 BANDS/ARTISTS:



Pg. 99 - I first got into this band when I was in high school, and at the time I listened to a lot of really straight forward punk and hardcore. They really pushed the boundaries of what hardcore should sound and feel like, musically and lyrically. It wasn't until I got into this band, and was fortunate enough to see them live, that I realized that I could take punk in new directions, really explore my creativity and do things my own way.

Unfortunately at the time I was singing for a hardcore band and the rest of the members did not come to the same realization, so I was kicked out when I didn't want to subscribe to that whole jock hardcore thing that was so popular in our town at the time. But hey, I'm still straight edge, active and punk as fuck and they're all drug addicts, alcoholics and burnouts now; so what does that say?

Antischism - This band always gets me super freaking pum-ped. I love their strong stances against deforestation, neocolonialism and racism... not to mention their music freakin rips. I really really wish I could have seen this band when they were still around.

Seven Generations - I was vegan and straight edge long before I ever knew there was an actual Vegan Straight Edge movement. I first saw 7gen when they played a show with Gather in Ventura, CA.

Being the only vegan and edge kid I knew in my area it was pretty intense to see guys with XVEGANX tattooed across their throats.

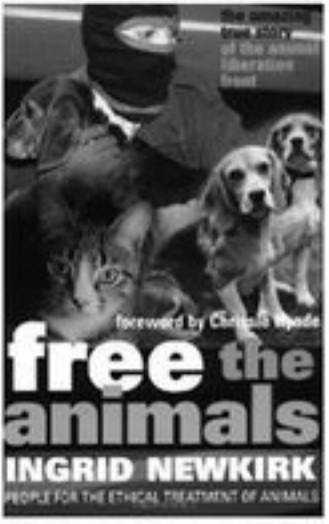
The speeches they gave at the shows and the attitude that surrounded the music was all really inspiring. I'm thankful to have gotten the chance to play with them when they were still together, and so glad to have them as friends.

3 BOOKS:

Flaming Arrows by Rod Coronado - The first time I read *"Memories of Freedom"* (which is included in this book) I didn't put it down until I had read it all the way through. It is by far one of my favorite pieces of writing to date, and I feel that it's still a huge influence on my writing, my music and my life.

Free the Animals by Ingrid Newkirk - I was skeptical of this book when it first came out, I fell into the old cliche of literally *"judging a book by it's cover"*. Bad art aside, the book itself is undeniably interesting. It's the story of how the American Animal Liberation Front first got started, and it gives you a very good idea of how different the movement used to be!

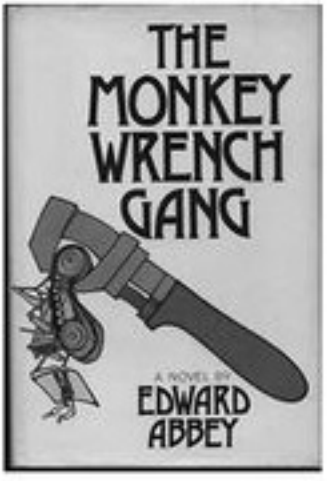
I mean, we're talking people liberating animals from vivisection labs and then holding press conferences in hotel rooms immediately afterward! To see that happen nowadays in the United States would be total insanity.



The Monkeywrench gang by Edward Abbey - I love Edward Abbey's writing because it always takes the most average, random people who just get pushed to far and begin to fight back against industrialization. This book in particular is pretty awesome because it basically gives you step by step instructions on how to decommission tractors, spike roads and even take out dams.

The original cover of this book is actually the inspiration for the tattoo I have on the side of my calf. An ancient tractor partially covered in sand, with an animals rib cage in place of an engine and a ruined city behind it. Tear it all down!

3 CITIES:



Portland, OR - In my opinion the most vegan friendly city in the world. Also, rated the second most bikeable city in the world right behind Amsterdam. The waterfalls and forests that surround this city are unbelievable.

Chiang Mai, Thailand - Home to the Elephant Nature Park (a place for rescued elephants), and a number of vegan and vegetarian restaurants. I spent a few days here last year and the rainforest and rivers just outside the city are absolutely amazing.
Thai culture is so rich and fascinating, and I was lucky enough to be here for the lantern festival that happens once a year. I think of Thailand often.

Yamba, Australia - Yamba is an incredibly small coastal town in New South Wales. When I was on tour in Australia last year I broke my ankle after one of my first shows. Thankfully I didn't have anything else booked for another few weeks, and a friend put me up in her small apartment in Yamba until my leg fully healed. It was voted Australia's best town the year that I was there, and I soon found out why. It's a quaint town with beautiful beaches on the edge of a rainforest.
Definitely a great place to spend Christmas with a broken ankle!

-3 MEALS: (all vegan, obviously)

- Thai red curry with tofu, thai iced tea and mango and sticky rice
- Enchiladas with soycurls, rice and beans, and horchata
- Banana, cacao, and date smoothie with vitamineral green and Maca powder

a conscious existence:
from depression to insurrection

written by G. Oak

In my opinion, to know and understand the environment that surrounds us, and which we're all part of, is the first step to becoming politically conscious and therefore active.

Indeed we are too attached to the western culture but it seems somehow foolish not to feel moved by the experiences of day-to-day activities that, directly or indirectly, make us rethink all concepts of morality that have been embedded in our own mind since birth.

It is then that we feel the need to change our reality, to feel and share the joy that we always wanted to have for life and that is when we realized that, one way or another, we are all interconnected and, unless we are all free and happy, no one is.

Our existence becomes a dilemma between living to fight or forever remain imprisoned in a state of apathy with no return.

Unfortunately, the beauty of *"being conscious"* could not be more devastating.

On one hand - and as I said before - being aware of the power and influence that civilization has for all is the first step to rebel against *"ourselves"* and not get to the point where planet earth, to which we all belong to, turns against us. And this event is closer to happening more than you can imagine.

On the other hand the impact of understanding reality as a whole can lead us to the most extreme psychological and emotional damage. All the suffering, all the pain, all the inequality and oppression that are part of our daily basis becomes very difficult to handle and it can be certainly harmful even for the strongest minds.

Life is already fucked up itself but getting beyond any news report, documentary or even personal experience brings us the deepest and the worst possible emotional and psychological damage which, moreover, may prove even physically. From negativity to isolation and even depression itself, the malaise increases, instability grows and there's no turning back - no end to all of this. We can't even slow down the process!

And although it feels so wrong seeing most of the people back up to pursuit their miserable lives without trying harder I can honestly say that their choice is understandable.

BUT, as hard as it may seem to have a conscious existence, all this dismay (to say the least) can become a strong motivation to ignite it all - and watch it burn!

And that is when we'll build a new world on the ashes of the old one.

1. Let's start with an introduction to you. Who are you? How old are you? You were born in Urugay [note – it's not an intentional mistake :(], but located to the USA in an early age. How did you grown up as a latino-kid and what brought you to hardcore/punk.

My name is Martin Sorrondeguy I am 42 years old. I was born in Uruguay not Urugay, and was raised in the U.S. I came into hardcore punk when I was a teenager. I wanted something different than what was existing in my area at the time. We have many gang and violence problems there and I did not want to be a part of that. I needed something different, and punk was new and interesting for me and it provided options for an alternative life.

2. How did you come up to form the band Los Crudos and become involved in the DIY scene?

DIY ethics came to me before I was in Los Crudos. I had learned through DIY that there were always ways to having things happen that were outside the limits of what mainstream culture presented to me. Los Crudos was able to really make out impact due to a strengthened DIY belief system and methodology.

3. What brought you to the radical politics expressed by the band?

Our lives that we were living, our history as immigrants into the U.S. and the circumstances we were faced with, led us to to take a radically political stance. It was more of a necessity in order to survive and keep our sanity.

4. Can you give us a brief history of Los Crudos and the other activities and projects that you were involved in during the band's existence?

Crudos began in 1991 on the Southside of Chicago. We sang all our songs in Spanish as a means to communicate with other Latino immigrants about our frustrations with the way Immigrant populations we- re being treated in the U.S.

We took our message and involved ourselves with punk as well an non-punk people, artists, activists and social workers within our community. We had built alliances with many people and we did benefit d ourselves in meetings as well a actions to make change

5. It seems the main purpose of Los Crudos was to unify the Latino/Chicano punk community and expose the message of anarchism, immigrant rights and anti-racism to these poor Latino neighbourhoods in Spanish language. What was the reason to broke up with Los Crudos and are you satisfied with what you have achieved with the band during all those years together?

We really spread our message to many types of communities not just poor latino communities. The impact that Crudos made went noticed because we spread ourselves out to even wealthier white communities as well. If we had stayed only in poor latino communities crudos and our activities would most likely not have been known.

We stopped because it became too much about the band and music. It seemed that we were being pressured to play gig after gig and tour again and again, and it seemed that we were being cornered in a way that if we committed ourselves to gigging only we would loose our impact message wise, so we decided to stop the band.

6. After Los Crudos you started the band Limp Wrist and exposed your sexuality. Why did you become involved in the gay rights issues so late? Why not talking about being gay when you were in Crudos? And what's the story behind starting Limp Wrist, was this a serious project in the beginning?

Actually, I was talking about being gay when Los Crudos were playing, it was when I first *"came out"* due to the conservativism within the many communities I felt it was important to talk about these issues. So I did. There were two songs on the Crudos LP that address the issues of love and sexuality.

Limp Wrist was always serious but we chose to take a humorous angle to make our point instead of an angry approach which was successful in the U.S.

7. I guess there were a lot of troubles when you have started Limp Wrist, because the lyrics and live shows of the band can be easily seen as extremely provocative with all that nudeness, homoeroticism and making fun of all the gay cliches. What was harder

for you, to spark the social awarness and talk about political ideas with Los Crudos or to threaten homophobia and be an all-gay hardcore band with Limp Wrist?

All of the above were challenges, and as an artist and activist one has to create strategies to making your voice and point heard. Both bands were vehicles to express many things and we wanted to be smart about what we did and steering away from just being confrontational. That is what is usually expected from people we have lived with confrontation and are accustomed to it, so doing something that does not engage aggressiveness is strategizing.

8. What's the difference between the Queercore scene and the political DIY scene? Is the queer scene open to the different social ideas and things like supporting the immigrants and minorities, being involved in social movements, animal rights etc., or it's mainly single-issue oriented on identity politics and only few people are aware of other things except being gay?

It is very difficult if we begin to speak in terms of whole groups of people. So with any group of people you have a lot of overlap into differences because we are not flat human beings we all have differences. So when speaking about a gay person who then is also an immigrant or from a Thirld World nation or if you are a gay person that is poor as opposed to the stereotype of having money. Or if you are transgendered it gets more complica-ted/interesting.

There are folks who juggle all of these dimensions of their lives so in punk queercore is an identity and it comes with expectations and a consciousness/awareness. So you cannot identify as queercore and not have a greater scope of the world around you, in fact, being queercore or a gay/lesbian/queer/trans punk has opened up expanded dialogue and actions to make real equitable change in the scene and in the world.

9. Some people recognize gays only as middle or upper class privileged people, who spend all of their free time in gay bars and clubs.

What is like to be immigrant, gay, working class and living in a poor Latino neighbourhood?

This is what I was getting at above, you do have the mainstream gay world which can be what you described above and it is what gets media attention.

Gay is not an umbrella group that we all fit under it is impossible to flatly define, so when people can embrace that being gay transcends the economic and social boundaries that we are used to see, we can begin to understand that the possibility of having someone who is gay living next door to us or within our own families is very real and it is happening, this goes for any community Latino/White/African-American/Asian etc, etc.

10. As it seems gay bars and clubs are the most recognized places where gay people could meet other gay people and socialize. But these are also places where they spend a lot of money on alcohol and drugs. What's your opinion on this as Straight Edge person? Do you think alcohol, drugs and AIDS are a big problem in the mainstream gay communities and is there a way to stop this? What was your reason to become Straight Edge?

I no longer want to call myself Straight Edge as of two years ago. I was calling myself Straight Edge though when I first went to gay bars 15 years ago and I was comfortable with being Straight Edge it was part of who I was and I did not feel I had to surrender that in order to gain acceptance from gays who frequented bars. Gay bars in most cities are places where we can be social and meet one another but there are other places to meet as well, now there is the Internet and one no longer has to go to a bar to meet other gay folks this is with everyone now.

The issues of gays and money is a very mainstream look at the gay world, there are many gays who do not have a lot of money so if you have I suppose you spend if you don't have money spending is not an option.

11. You told me you're working as a high-school teacher. What do you think of the educational system in the USA and don't you have troubles with the school-board or angry parents, who don't want the teacher of their children to be gay? Are you talking with your students about LGBT rights, homophobia or historical events like the Stonewall riots?

I am an art/photo teacher so this is my focus of teaching at times current events and social issues come up in discussions during class, I think my job is to make sure the dis-

cussion is healthy and a true dialogue not one that comes from anger and intimidation, most students are able to have these discussions in this manner. I do not walk into a class room and say *"Hi, I am Martin and I am gay"*, I have never heard of a teacher doing this. There are students that are gay or lesbian and sometimes they can tell when a teacher is gay or lesbian but it depends on the context if that issue comes up and how it is dealt with. I once taught in an alternative high school where I was asked to teach a queer history class and it was great.

This was an alternative school that was small about 40 students and a place where students were tired of being lied to and as a teacher I could be honest and prepare these students for real world experiences not hide things from them in hopes of them never having to be exposed to anything. Sort of strange but that is how fear of the unknown begins and many conservative approaches do this.

12. What's some other stuff that people should know about the history of gay rights movement except Stonewall?

There is so much, I think having an awareness of many great works and ativities created by gay/lesbian/bi/trans people is important. Queers did not just riot, we are in medicine/arts/politics etc. We are everywhere!

13. I guess here in Bulgaria no one is familliar with the history of the queer punk scene. So can you give us some information about the first and about the most important bands with gay members or people unframing the issue in the hardcore/punk scene? In the song *"The Ode"* you're singing about people like Gary Floyd and Randy Turner, who are they? Which are the most important gay bands today and which queer bands do you recommend to hear?

The earliest of US punk in particular had many many queer people involved and active in the scene. The more known people were Darby Crash of the GERMS, Tomata Du Plenty of the SCREAMERS, Bob Mould from HÜSKER DÜ, Gary Floyd is the singer of the DICKS, Randy Turner is the singer of the BIG BOYS.

There were also many many old punks who experimented with sexuality but may not have identified as gay. Some even prostituted themselves to men like DeDe Ramone. So whatever the reason sexuality was pretty fluid.

14. What about the Latino hardcore/punk scene? You made the movie *"Beyond The Screams: A Latino/Chicano Hardcore/Punk Documentary"*, but it seems there's a

big difference since the time you did the movie? Bands like Los Crudos, Huasipungo, Youth Against are not active for years. What's happening now?

In the Latino Punk scene there are tons of great bands and a strong scene of it, some of the bands are Ilegal from Montreal, Canada, Sin Orden is still happening, Tuberculosis, La Voz, Rayos X, Polizkitzo, Outraged, Ultratumbados, Venganza, Mugre, NN, Peligro Social, Ruleta Russa, and tons more there is some great stuff happening.

15. Tell us more about your bands and musical projects besides Los Crudos and Limp Wrist.

I have newer bands, one is a Spanish/Latino punk band called NN. I also have a total hardcore band called Needles, I am also still running Lengua Armada Records and releasing many great bands that I think need support.

16. Bands like Bad Brains or...Vegan Reich... are well known for their negative views on homosexuality. What's your opinion on these bands?

Everyone has had their opinions and they are entitled to them. As a kid I grew up listening to Bad Brains, and I loved their Positive Mental Attitude and that spoke to me and I lived it, it is a shame that H.R. did not.

17. Is there anything you want to add? Something important that you would like to impart, but I forgot to ask you about?

No, not really, I think there are truly great discussions that need to happen, I am willing to partake in these discussions whenever I can. I hope the folks in your scene can read this and have a newer understanding of what we have been doing.

Thank you for the time and curiosity.

LOVE HARDCORE
HATE HOMOPHOBIA

THERE'S NO PEACE IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

THERE'S NO PEACE IN THE SEA

THERE'S NO PEACE IN THE LABORATORY

COMPASSION STARTS AT HOME

WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR

OUR LIVES

CRITICAL POINT

Pure Straight Edge Oldschool Hardcore

In-Your-Face!!! Go X Vegetarian!

Interviewed by:Niki Ugly and Proud

1. Hi, the first question is a classic one: can you present the band, who does what and your other projects (current and past)?

Hi man! First of all, thanks for the interview!!! Critical Point is a mix of ex-members of Broken Distance and Pointing Finger, 2 old SXE bands from Faro, Portugal.

I sing in the band and also play drums for Pressure and run a small DIY booking "agency" called IMPACT|BOOKINGS. I used to play drums for many other old SXE bands from Portugal such as Time X and New Winds as well. Walter plays bass also in Pressure and used to run Take The Risk Bookings/Records. He used to play bass for Broken Distance. David plays drums. He also plays guitar in Pressure and used to be the singer of Broken Distance and guitar player for Pointing Finger. He runs Salad Days Records. João plays guitar and also played guitar for Broken Distance and bass in Pointing Finger.

2. How is the scene in Portugal? Are there any new cool bands? Any SxE/veg' bands to recommend?

The Hardcore in Portugal is actually pretty good in our hometown. Lots of shows, a good place for small DIY bands to play. You have other cool places such as Viana do Castelo, Caldas da Rainha and of course, Porto and Lisbon, but Lisbon it s more the place for bigger shows.

Oh man, in the early 2000's Portugal used to be one of the best SXE scenes in Europe with almost 10 good SXE bands, but right now, the only 2 SXE bands still active are Pressure and Critical Point which are almost the same dudes in different positions.

The HC scene in Portugal in general is still awesome but SXE is not that "hyped" anymore

3. It's been some time now since it's finished, but how was your first tour with Pressure and Broken Distance?

We did lots of tours before with Pointing Finger, but to be honest this was the best tour we ever did. The route was perfect, we got to play lots of countries with awesome bands such as Balance, Birds of a Feather, Harda Tider, Unbreakable, etc...

Initially this was something only for Broken Distance and Pressure. Then me and David started to joke around about doing a youth x crew band with me singing. We made like 4 songs in 2 practices or so, I recorded the drums and voice, David the bass and guitar, then talked with the rest of the guys and made this to open all the gigs on tour. Just for fun, but actually this became more and more serious with me singing and David playing drums. We got a great response from that tour and decided after the tour to make it more and more serious!!!

4. Could you please explain why vegetarianism is so important for you?

I can say that Vegetarianism is one of the most important subjects related to the Hardcore community. I played drums in New

Winds and we all started listen to bands and get involved in the mid/late 90's were Veganism was BIG!!!! We got more and more involved in it and it has a special and important role in the message we are trying to pass to the new kids.

People should get to know more about all the things involved in the disgusting meat/fish industry. So many awful things they all do for money. Horrible!!!

5. Is SxE (and vegeterianism/veganism) a political stance or a personal choice? Why?

Well, it s a personal choice in the same way as SXE is for us. We all live poison/drug free so we can related Vegetarianism with this statement, but at least for me it's also a political stance. Man, like I was saying, people just don't get a clue about the horrible situations behind the meat and fish industry. I'm totally against those who win money and have lots of profit from animal suffering. We all should get aware of this problem. YES! It s a problem also for all planet 'cuz we could all save our resources. This filthy industry spends so many things for this business. It's crazy! Basically we want people to at least understand us and what we are trying to say!!! It's important!!!

6. Could you please explain how the scene in Portugal has evolved since you started listening to hxc and going to shows? You said at the show in Rotterdam that you are one of the oldest dudes in the scene that is stil sxe and still involved...

Good question. You know, I'm turing 30 this year and I already "survived" to many many hypes, but this still makes sense for me, this community! SXE makes sense for me, it's not a pre-college hype, it's serious, Vegetarianism makes sense for me and for the band. Before kids were more involved, more commited, more DIY, more under-

ground, more proud of this community. Nowadays is still a good scene and I still believe in it, but this is really going a different direction = Mainstream...and No one cares!!!! Nowadays I feel like bands care a lot but really a lot about technical details, good productions, good artworks, good equipment, good conditions at shows, etc... I mean, I don't like it very very dirty but sometimes I feel like that kids get more interested in just the music and not the message! It was great to play with 30+ years old dudes, the guys on Birds of a Feather. It's an inspiration to see those guys kicking ass!!! When you become adult you see all your old friends going away with other kind of lifes, family look at you as a teenager and you become a person without any credibility. And this sucks!!! Even HC kids that used to be DIY and underground now just care about this shitty rock/pop/freakshow kind of HC just because it s a grown up thing. That sucks!

This is not what we were involved and what we always believed! Guess you got my point! What we are living, it's still serious and it will always be!!!

7. What do you think about hardcore in 2011? Is there still any place for politics and radical ideas in the hardcore scene?

It should!!! When I started listening to Hardcore my background was bands like Dead Kenenys, The Exploited, Circle Jerks, Youth of Today, 7 Seconds, Minor Threat and other punk HC classic stuff. It was always a kind of political scene in some way!

The message was always a big anti-social, anti-government and the problems we had in 81, we still have in 2011, the world is full of shit and those who have the power to play in a band should think about some social political issues cuz we all live in this world and people must be aware of it. It seems that we are all very well entertained with internet, cell phones, gadgets and shit like that and then forget about what's happening around us. This world is fucked!!! HC should have a space for political ideas!!! For Real!

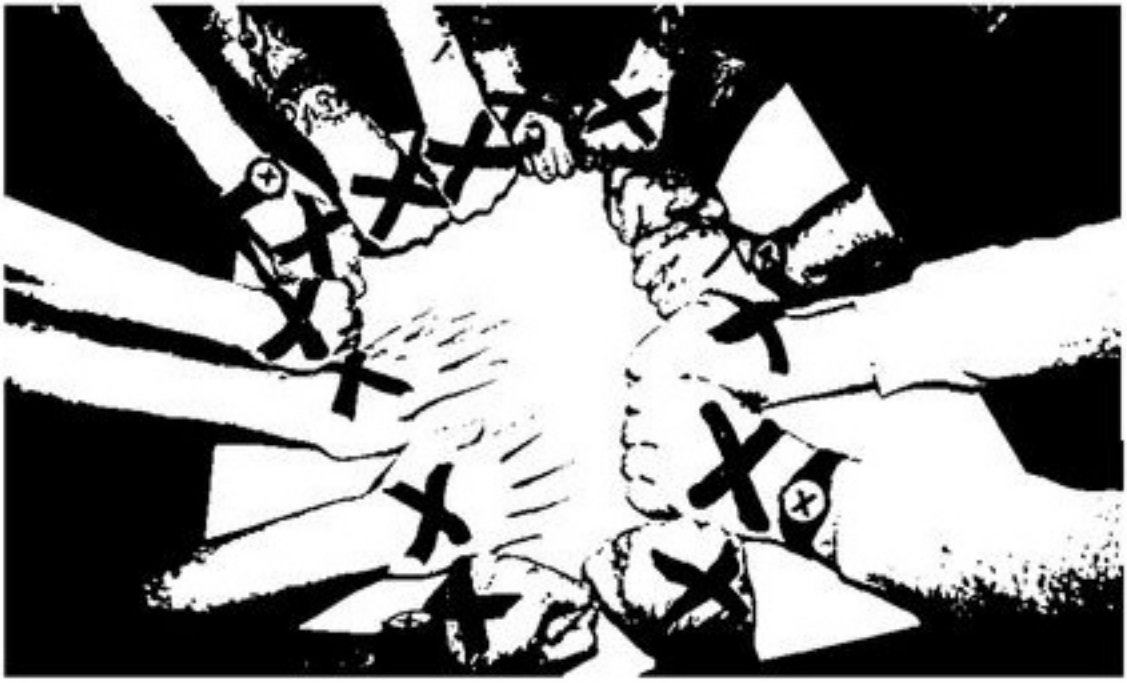
8. What are your plans for the future?

Dude, we just recorded 6 new killer songs! Commitment Records will release us! Thumbs Up for Robert from Commitment Records for helping us. This is the only record label that fits in the way of thinking of Critical Point and we are very happy for it! We will also tour Europe together with Pressure in April, so, hope to see you around ;)

9. Any last words/comments...

GO VEGETARIAN!!!!

THIS IS NOT A FASHION SCENE



STRAIGHT EDGE IS POLITICAL

RESIST, WITH EVERY OUNCE OF LIFE,
WITH EVERY BEAT OF MY HEART

We can learn for our mistake and misfortunes

Have you ever thought you live a life that is not yours? Have you ever wake up in the morning and felt that nothing can improve your day? That was what I felt for a long time...I was in a major that I didn't like, I was doing what I was told and not what I wanted to do, I was following someone's idea of a right life, I was chasing a dream based simple on a monetary security.

During that period of time (almost 3 years to be precise) the simple thing in life that suppose to make me happy didn't make any mark, for example, the joy of waking up to live another day, to see the people you live with and are part of our daily life and so on...I guess sometimes we choose things without thinking too much about our happiness; we're too much attached to what others think and say just because they are older or our family. I'm not saying that family is a bad thing, on the contrary, is one of the most valuable pillars of my life, family is everything! (if you're a latino you will get me hahaha) What I want to say is that sometimes we are not self-sufficient to make our own choices. Is hard for us as a revolutionary person like we like to call ourselves to admit something like this, even for me was hard as fuck to question and change some aspects related to family issues.

My story begins after I ended high school. I talk with my parents about college and what I wanted to do with my life and so on...they advised me to take a major that (at least where in the portuguese state) lead to a financial security that some people can dream about.

Naively, I thought I was choosing the right thing for myself, but guess what...I couldn't be more wrong! When I started to learn some specific matters I fucking hated that shit! I couldn't even sleep right 'cus in my head the only thoughts I had was *"What I've losing in my life?" "Am I disappointing everyone?"* I realize that was hard as fuck not spending time doing what I liked, not spending time with my friends, not spending time to appreciate the simple things in life, simply because I was stuck in a classroom or at home studying something that was hard to learn and not give me the motivation I wanted, just to make my family happy. Some people may think family is an oppressive "monster" that we all must get rid off. But in my opinion, I can live without the unconditional love that we share. Is true that sometimes family doesn't get along, some ways of thinking aren't quite the same, some choices in life aren't the right ones for us, but they will always be the ones to help us out and ready to share some true love and compassion.

It may seem strange and confused but I found some good aspects in all this mess.

As a positive person I try to be (a very worried one as well) to transform this problem in some kind of solution. There for, I start to look at this in a new perspective. Life isn't perfect, not even close. We are disappointed every day, we hurt someone or someone hurt us (even if they don't meant to), so everyday we must find solutions for the problems of the persons you love the most (our family, our friends, even ourselves) or we start to going crazy.

I started to think about this as a wakeup call, a sign. "We can learn for our mistake and misfortunes" is the phrase sang by the hardcore band **The Effort** and in some way that changed my way of thinking.

The mistakes we do in life can make us strong, can make us learn about simple things and can teach us about making the right choices and think outside the box. There are so many different things we can look for, so many dreams to live, so many new things to experience. The future is unwritten, the answers for life are on single aspects and moments of this so called experience. Sometimes the best thing is to drop out of our comfort zone and explore new sensations and try to find new possibilities. And with this, after some hard thinking I decided to drop out of my major and try to find another one or other thing to do with my life. Guess only time will decide want I can or not get hahaha.

For me sometimes is hard to look at these personal things and share with someone, since other issues seem to be more important, such as, in my case, the everyday strife against the system and create a world with no gods and no masters, but it feels great to express some of the internal frustrations and share some ways of dealing with the situation. I guess this is the principal propose of this text, in a certain way.

Communication and reflection are powerful weapons in our lives, so don't be afraid of using them.

Concluding, I just want to apologize for a text so sentimental and personal (is not my usual me) but it seem like the right thing to do, so I apologize if the text is not visible and the ideas are not well organized and for my bad english too...

Peace!
xSérgiox

Against Amnesia

by (d)andger

"There are moments when life seems entirely impossible. All the crazy dreams of rebellion disappear. The desire to revolt against the society of the civilized is lost to futility, the open but empty hand. All of the late-night laughter filled conversations, the meanderings and wanderings of those intoxicated with thoughts of adventure, begin to seem naive and empty.

One comes to the conclusion that one is accomplishing nothing: destruction and creation seem equally without attraction. One abandons one's own imagination and returns to the old trap of fear.

The existential idiot occupies one's head.

Here is the point where the misery of this society completes itself. This society strengthens itself by continually forcing the individual to disappear: the individual disappears when the individual gives in to the misery of this society. One begins to accept the limitations imposed by this society as one's own. To experience comes to mean to repeat oneself. One begins to feel one has nothing to offer in defiance, nothing to give: every gesture becomes a blank stare.

Passion is pacified. Desire is rationalized away. The forbidden remain forbidden.

This supreme moment of misery marks nothing less than the triumph of amnesia. Such complete abandonment of life's adventure is the surrender of one who has forgotten all previous rebellion and all previous desire to revolt.

Memory has ceased to be a pleasure: the misery of the moment stretches backwards forever. Amnesia is essential to civilizing human beings: when one forgets the possibilities (the richness of past, present, and future) one is domesticated, one disappears.

Amnesia is the colonization of memory.

One is forced to forget everything rebellious about one's life. The colonized mind is less likely to imagine a total revolt against this society if all traces of earlier revolts are suppressed.

Everything from simple negative gestures to the hand in the cookie jar to late night crimes make memory precious to the individual; as soon as these breaches are forgotten the present becomes less and less pregnant: the stem of the

flower is cut before the flower blooms. One is in despair over the absence of past freedom simply because the residue of past freedoms have been purged from one's memory.

When asked how one knows that freedom is possible the rebel responds with examples of past freedoms. The rebel remembers the events, movements, and moments of one's past that mark breaks with the dominant order. One knows that freedom is possible because everybody has experienced freedom: the taste of paradise is in all our mouths. To forget this is fatal.

Amnesia can be combated by constantly digging back into our memories, by constantly becoming more and more aware of our mistakes and victories. No, we must not dwell in the past, we must be cruel with our pasts (and those who would keep us there), and yet we must be greedy with our pasts (and wary of those who would paint those pasts with the blackness of misery and impossibilities).

Rebels must return to their own past with a bouquet of flowers in one hand and a knife in the other." -(d)anger (POB 203, Portland, OR. 97207)

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ANTISPECIESIST ACTION
AGAINST SPECIESISM / AGAINST CAPITALISM / AGAINST THE STATE

The sound of revolution?

written by Paul XVX

Oh man, for months now I'm thinking about writing this article and nearly every day I've got some confusing thoughts on my mind about this but never took enough time to start it with full motivation. Yesturday, I've got an e-mail because someone wrote on the fanzine facebook page. So I logged in to this social timekiller network from hell and...WHAT THE FUCK? just a few days left to the deadline. Okay, no time for excuses, I need to make little concrete plan for the topics, then write it, send all to the boss and finally get angry because I started everything way too late and so wasted potential to write something better.

Weeks ago when I did the first little try to use a pen to make my thoughts visible I was about to write the way the kids in *"our scene"* are living and consuming. My main question was (and still is) *"what's so fucking special about someone who's into "underground" hardcore and am I still feeling to be a part of that?"*. I say underground because I want to exclude these *"M.A.D. moshkids"* you just see at the Persistence and Never Say Die - tour. I think you know what I mean.

But when I did so I was always judging someone for doing something (or even not). But how can I judge everyone when my head is full of questions insted of answers? This isn't working!

If hardcore music is *"the sound of revolution"* (Warzone) there has to be some revolutionary ideology in people's mind. But what should this revolution be about? Shirts? Strange colors for your limited preorders? I know a revolution is about getting masses mobilized but for me it seems that the most of us are segregating everyone who's not dancing the way the others do or wearing the wrong shirts.

I mean there has to be way more than another music style and more tat-

toos to differentiate us from the rest of the world. What's about real consum criticism? Okay, vegetarianism is still big in hardcore and there are also some vegans left (way to less!) and this is (for me) the most important point. Should this be everything? I hope not! For me it's clear that I don't want to buy every shit just because it's vegan.

Vegan Nestlè Cornflakes? FUCK YOU! Fakeleather Nikes handmade by little asian girls? Get the fuck out of my sight! There is so much more you can buy.. organic food, sweatshop free clothes, local fruits and vegs, alternative medias (switch the TV off and your brain on!).

And what's the deal with the cigarettes so many kids are buying from these huge ultra-capitalists who spend millions of dollars for advertisment to make millions thinking it's cool to destroy themselves so these companies earn billions? And don't get me wrong, this isn't about straight edge or not straight edge, but drugdealing, in my eyes, is the spearhead of capitalism.

Yeah, I know that I can't expect that everyone becomes an elite XVX anarchist who fights for saving the world 25 hours a day. Even I, Mr. Complaining and crying about everyone else, got my weak parts in life, but shouldn't we at least try to improve ourselves? I mean if we don't do so and think all we do in life is enough we're stagnating...and stagnation means death if we're talking about changing this world into a better one.

Another thing we should be more responsible for, goes up to all the vegans out there. Even if the whole western media world now reporting about veganism/vegetarianism, CO_2 reduction, deforestation and the bad situation for caged animals, a lot of people are still full of prejudices. Leak of protein, no fun at eating, tired all day long because of undernoutishment and so on. But there is one way to show all these shitheads that they are fucking wrong...we need to stay healthy! Vegan cakes are cool. Waffles and pancakes too, but that doesn't mean that there's no time for a lot of raw food and sports. There are a lot of healthy vegans dudes and also some good athlets and I'm fully convinced that veganism in general is not

just the healthiest way for the animals and the environment but also for yourself. But I also know lazy vegans if it's about becoming fit. **WAKE UP AND LIFT!**

The last topic I'm really angry about is racism and for me sexism and homophobia is a part of racism! I came to hardcore through punkrock so for me it was always clear that hardcore is anti-fascism, anti-sexism and pro gay-liberation. But sadly I had to learn that's not that clear for everyone. Especially in my town many fuckers in hc-shirts are into right winged politics and still are able to join little hc-shows in student clubs. Everyone knows but just a few care. Most are shaking hands.

But also besides this fatal case homophobia and sexism is still big. If I go to a show I dont want to hear a narcissist macho vocalist on stage talking about girls who just want to suck his tattooed dick. What the fuck is going wrong with some people?

And to everyone who thinks it's funny or cool to make jokes about gay people...GO FUCK YOURSELF! You're not hardcore, you're just a Neanderthal!

In the end of a day full of asking myself if I still feel related to this scene I take a deep breath and think about what punk/hardcore made out of me. I came to straight edge and veganism through bands like H2O and Good Clean Fun over 6 years ago, met a lot of awesome people I won't miss anymore and got always something great to do on weekend nights. So..

Why don't you *GO VEGAN?*

featured text at Keep It Real #10 zine
by Gab - Epidemic Records

When Apostolis asked me to write a column for **Keep It Real**, I have to say I was pretty puzzled about the topic.

I care about a lot of different issues related to hardcore (and not), by the way it's really hard to pick out something really worth of being highlighted on these pages.

Hardcore gave me new perspectives on many things which were simply *"that way"* when I wasn't involved in it. There was no other chance to be in any other way but the way all the kids coming from my place grow up.

One of the most important things I found thanks to hardcore is veganism. It's sad to say that probably I wouldn't care much about animal liberation (and all the related, humyn and Earth, in a larger view), if I wasn't in hardcore. Sad, but true.

Society out there never told me anything about animal exploitation: meat was just something to eat on a shelf, milk was something to drink. And it was normal and necessary. All false.

I won't describe all the reason why it's a good choice to go vegan (animal exploitation, effects of the environment, distribution of resources and food on a global scale, etc.), but I'd like to give you some reason why veganism is one of the coolest choices I have ever made personally.

I never forced anyone to follow my choices about this kind of issues, but I'm also open to talk about them (if you talk respectfully, of course: I can't stand arrogance and ignorance!) and to bring my example to people which come close to these issues thanks to my own presence. Actually, I saw some people going vegan or vegetarian around me and I think that my example and other people's example made something happen in their mind. Isn't it the same thing happened to me when I went vegetarian first and vegan then?

If you are reading these lines and you haven't gone vegan (or vegetarian) yet, I'd like to describe the way it makes me feel.

First of all, once you know the truth about meat industry or animal products industry, I bet you can feel something inside of you. Unless you are stone-hearted. Are you a part of that mechanism? Or is there any choice to be outside of that exploiting and destructive machine, or more, against? The best choice is veganism.

The sensation, at my first totally vegan meals, to eat something which was "clean", free from suffering, free from exploitation of animals and with very small impact on environment, was great. Now, after all this time, it's something normal, but I can

EAT YOUR VEGGIES

tell you that when I realize that I'm eating something delicious which is also something with all the qualities described above, it still gives me the same sensation.

I also feel way better in health. I never loved junk food, but I'm not that kind of person who doesn't eat something (unless it's not vegan) because it's not healthy enough. By the way, I have to say that even the *"junkiest"* vegan meal is thousands times healthier than something with animal origin ingredients. I feel my body in a different way and I never had any problem with my health because of my vegan diet. The *"secret"* is not to renounce to food, but to substitute. Most of the non-vegan ingredients have their correspondent vegan ingredient, it's just to learn where it's easy to find them. And if you can't find them or can't get them... use your fantasy! It's even more satisfying!

Veganism gave me the opportunity to know ingredients and foods that I never cared about. I discovered lots of flavors and delicious things I never thought to try when I was a meat-eater. Some vegan tastes are more delicate, so when I went vegan I also learned to appreciate them and to discover some recipes which were very tasty, satisfying and incredibly charged with nutritional properties.

Some people think that it's really hard to be vegan. It can be hard in some way, for example when you have to eat out of home and choices are limited, but it's not impossible. Moreover, once you get used to know what you can eat or can't, it's really easy to avoid some products in favor of some others which are maybe the same, but with all vegan ingredients (for example: if you buy biscuits for breakfast, you'll learn in a short time which one are vegan and which are not, you don't have to read the ingredients all the time!).

I think that something is hard when you are not convinced to do it. If you feel something as urgent and needed, your path to go will be easier. The day I felt I wanted to go vegan, I remember that the hard thing to me was to eat something which wasn't vegan. The day I felt I wanted to go vegetarian, it was hard to feel good with a piece of meat in my dish. Going vegan requires some commitment, as everything in this world. But it gives back huge satisfactions and a new perspective on your life that makes it thousands times worth of it.

I know it can be easier if you go this path along with someone else, who maybe already made this choice, so, if you really feel it, try it, ask some *"experienced"* vegan some suggestion, confront your experiences... If you don't know anyone directly, surf the web, which is full of interesting blogs and websites about the vegan choice. Veganism is the key to bring a real change in the world, not only in our lives, but also for the whole world.

GO VEGAN...AND BE THE CHANGE!

www.epidemicrecords.cjb.net

down with the King of Beans, Soy!

by s.raiva

Lately I've been changing some things in my vegan diet and most of these decisions are based on awareness issues rather than health ones.

The product I'm going to write (shit) about is Soy. I could pick any other ingredient and write about it but this one is invading our food in a nick of time and we don't even know how this happened. Probably is because some persons are consuming less meat for healthy issues, others are realizing how the meat industry works and they don't want to make part of it another day, so they decided to go vegetarian or vegan.

Being soy very rich in protein, this is the first ingredient we add to our breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner everyday. Soy is everywhere, it's your tofu, your tempeh, your cheese, your butter, your delicious cupcakes and cookies, your soy drinks and yogurts...you get the idea, right? Just like many other products, soy feed us but also feeds the capitalist system. It doesn't matter if you bought them or got them for free, the production continues (I'm appling this to any other food or material product) because we all need to eat but lets be honest, when talking about soy, do you really need all those products in your table? Another question, do you know how this bean is cultivated?

I'm always questioning myself with those and other questions, did a small reasearch and came to my own conclusion that I don't need so much soy in my life. We all try to boycott so many things that someday everything might collapse or maybe only our body.

For the planet, I made the decision to cut as much soy off my diet and these reasons makes sense to me at this time. And when I'm questioned with: *"You don't eat soy? Why?"* here are some things that you should know why.

*Based on info from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soybean and "**WWF Soy Expansion** - Losing Forests to Fields"*

In Asia soybeans are primarily used for humyn consumption but in some countries like America, Brazil and Argentina soy grown primarily to provide cheap edible oil and high-protein animal feed rather than direct humyn consumption.

The production of this bean was encouraged by agricultural extension agents because the crop is a legume and fixes nitrogen in the soil for uptake by subsequent crops of corn. After corn, soybeans are the second-ranking U.S. crop and they are dominating

Brazil and Argentina agriculture.

The Brazilian Cerrado (wooded savannahs, are not nearly recognized as the Amazon) is one of the most threatened and over-exploited regions with unsustainable agricultural activities, like soy production and cattle ranching, as well as burning of vegetation for charcoal, all these actions are a major threat to its biodiversity. The production of soy has been criticised for deforestation, illegal appropriation of public lands, displacement of small-farmers and indigenous peoples and the lack of compliance with labour laws.

The industry of soy is expanding quickly throughout Brazil into natural habitats than it did in the States.

In Asia soy is consume in very small amounts of whole soybean products while in the western food processors separate the soybean into two: protein and oil. It's been said that soy have health benefits (like benefit on some body functions, prevent cancer, cholesterol-lowering along with other heart and health benefits...) remember there are also risks (large quantities can cause stomach and other gastrointestinal discomfort problems, food intolerance, current or past cancer may have risks of potential tumor...) Remember that our bodies do not have the same reactions while ingestion this or other ingredients, so everything we eat should not be consume in large quantities.

Soybeans are genetically modified by inserting an herbicide resistant gene taken from bacteria into the soybean. The crop becomes more resistant and increases the amount of crop produced in shorter time. If you going to eat soy products look for organic.

I'm not asking for you to cut off the food you love, I'm just letting you know that everything we consume can have good and bad consequences for us and the environment and in the end of the day it's up to each one of us to make the decisions we think they are right. So what's yours...

off with the King's head or slowly take his crown?

ESSENCE OF REALITY

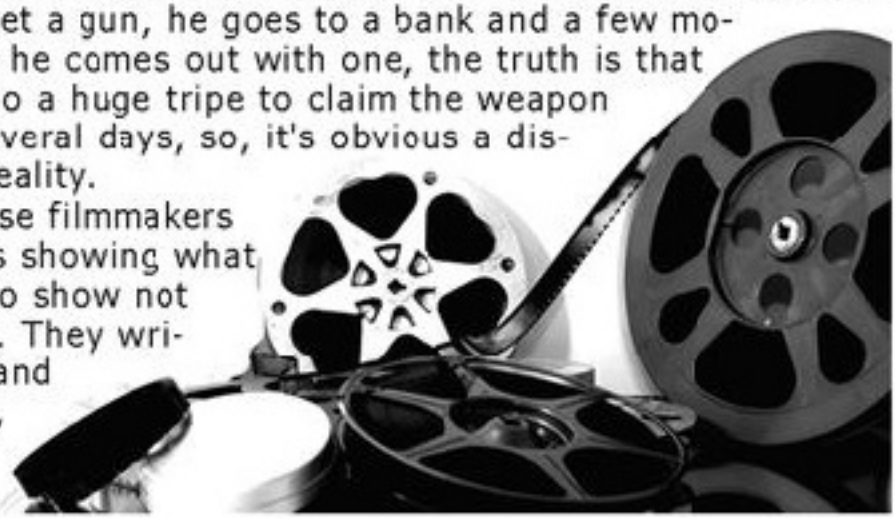
Written by Elephant Kid, Portugal 2011

With the *"evolution"* of times, the need of sharing and promoting information grows everyday. Not only the need but the means, nowadays almost everything is a mean for sharing, still, one of the strongest ways continues to be moving images more specific, documentary filmmaking exists since 1922 with *"Nanook of the North"* by Robert Flaherty, for sure this was the first documentary film, still, it was very criticized to be a distortion of reality because the director staged with the characters some of the scenes, for example, the construction of an igloo witch the Inuk (canadian arctic tribe captured on the film) haven't been doing for years.

This reality vs fiction subject continues to be very fresh discussion still, there's a fresher one, ethics in documentary.

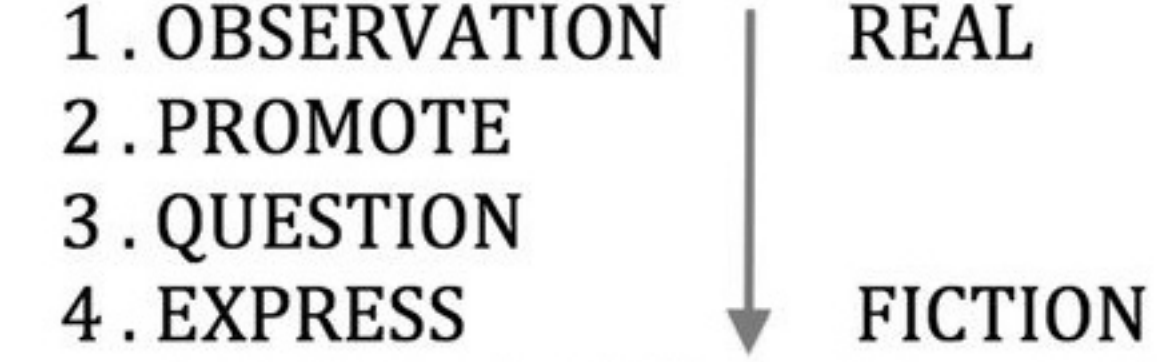
Movies are, above all, a representation of reality, you all must have seen a film (fiction) that you thought it was kinda shity because you just could not believe that what you saw was true or, could be true, that was probably because the film did not faked reality very well. A documentary can be faked doing the opposite, fictioning (I don't know if this word even exists in english, but you get the point) reality which *"Nanook of the North"* does it in a way, but you can do it not only by staging a scene but for example in Michael Moore's *"Bowling for Columbine"*, there's a scene were Moore himself is showing you how easy is to get a gun, he goes to a bank and a few moments later he comes out with one, the truth is that he had to do a huge tripe to claim the weapon and wait several days, so, it's obvious a distortion of reality.

What these filmmakers are doing is showing what they want to show not what exists. They write a script and than film it, same as fiction.



In Documentary you have to work with what exists, what's real,what's happening at the moment you are filming, and show not what you want but your point of view on that particular subject.

This for me is the most important thing on a film, imagine that your subject is a blind man with a dog guide, you can do this film on the point of view of that man and your camera will be on his eye level most of the time, or, you can do it on the dog level, both these films are about blindness but both are very different on there essence.



With your subject and point of view defined, you need to know what you want do to with it, will it be based on observation only? Do you want to promote something for example veganism? Do you want to question how something is made? With our opinion or beautiful images that retract reality? You can always mix them and make a film with multiple aspects.

I think observation and expression are pretty well defined, observation is too lock, to show a process, expression is just yourself, you and the subject, what can you create with it, but, promoting and questioning are much more complicated, I guess...both these topics rise up some complicated ethical questions, in promoting you are telling the viewer something you think it's good but most of the times you do it by showing the opposite, what's bad. This is something that I'm sick of seeing on films that promote veganism where you're bombed with images of animals been killed and tortured, horrible images that have the only propose to shock the viewer, I don't think, I'm sure veganism is not about that, were is the beauty?

A film must be beautiful always at least in a way, and you can't show beauty with that, if the movie has no beauty, is it

worth watching? Do you want to see more ugly and horrible things on movies?

We all know what's happening, we are bombed with that, on tv, news, etc. All the wars...so, if we are bombed with that and we consider ourselves deferments, cruelty free, we don't want to show more cruelty. Still about promoting, who are you to be a voice of reason and promote a lifestyle to millions of people who follow their own ways all over the world?

It's a question I leave, really don't know how to answer but still makes me think Documentary cinema all over again. Who am I to be writing about it?

Questioning Documentary's this time, I don't thing the problem is on the essence of the question but on the answers of most directors find or try to find in the process of making the film, for example, talking to people that are supposed to know more about the subject than you do, but than, not looking for the opposite side, for example, question veganism, you need to both talk with vegan and meat eaters, new vegans and ex-vegans to get the full perspective on it. When to stop? How can you tell when you really have your answer?

Most of this type of films end in two different ways, or they fail to get an answer an because kind of pointless, or they get a fake answer that you doubt about it.

Now focusing on veganism, do you know anyone who became vegan just because he/she watched a film of animals suffering? I know some and they all eventually quit. A image is something that enters in your head and stays there for awhile but eventually vanishes, and when disappears, you forget about those films and you don't care anymore.

I read about a couple who went vegan after watching one of those films, they had a baby that died of a poor nutrition. So a film is not the best way to past that info, I think that can open some minds but not changing a person entirely, when you do a film with all the right reasons but than someone dies because of it, fuck! it's not the way.

Zines are knowledge, books, friends, movies need to be more based on real imagines, positive info and beauty, other way they can be catastrophic. We are promoting a lifestyle here, we know veganism can change the world in a good way.

Now some films and directors I would like to show you. Starting with a classic, *"Primary"* by Robert Drew, this man is one of the pioneers of documentary film, in my point of view he was the first to use the language of film into reality, he did a documentary like he was doing a fiction, this film in particular is about John F. Kennedy run for president of the U.S. and you will see Kennedy not as a machine or a politician but as a person, this film features as well a really awesome camera work. Drew and his films are a part of the *"Cinéma Vérité"* (truthful cinema), with started to be a movement of documentary filmmakers that still exists today (check out wikipedia article about it, and if you like it, they recommend some more films there).

Werner Herzog, one of my favorite directors, he does documentary and fiction films, he is known particularly because he doesn't give a shit about anything, he jus does it, but he directs his films with such sincerity and love that is truly heart blowing. Watch *"The White Diamond"* and *"Encounters at the End of The World"* two of his latest documentary's.

"Our Daily Bread" by german Nikolaus Geyrhalter, if you see this you'll understand when I say a film must be beautiful even when the subject is not.

The film is about the way food is processed before going into your plate, it's so well filmed and mostly sincere and honest and still he is promoting and questioning many things.

Last but not least Sergei Dvortsevoy, a russian documentary filmmaker that in 2008 made his first fiction ever *"Tulpan"*, for ethic relation reasons, his principal focus on his films are nomad families living in Asia and Middle East Deserts. His documentary's are truly great but he stopped doing it because he felt he was taking advantage of the people he filmed to be considered an artist, that's why he made *"Tulpan"* with some characters that he filmed in his previous films and aspiring local actors, they all earned money for it.
Please read the interview he gave to The Guardian on this link: *www.guardian.co.uk/film/2009/nov/05/segei-dvortsevoy-pawel-pawlikowski* and watch his films but I think you will be able to see just *"Tulpan"* others are hard to find on the web and I don't think they are edited on dvd.

I hope you enjoy reading this, e-mail if you like it or not or if you have any questions. Thanks to *"Open Minds"* zine. I truly thing zines are a great way to share info and knowledge, don't make them disappear, in this world of web and tv. Sorry for my bad english...

I support a vegan/straight edge lifestyle

UNVEIL

interview by Paul XVX

1. First of all tell me something about your band and which part do you take in there.

Hi, I'm Christian and I sing for UNVEIL, a hardcore band from Switzerland. The other members are Thomas (Bass), Johann (Guitar) and Raphael (Drums) and we are the best friends ever since we went to highschool.

2. Nowadays there aren't much bands talking about ethics or politics, even if they are involved. How do you try to spread your message? Do you take some time to talk between the songs to make it clear that meat eating sucks or stuff like that?

I usually explain our view on animal rights and veganism every time we play. Sometimes there are also other subjects I talk about, for example politics or human rights. I think it's important to keep this kind of spreading the message alive though I often feel like repeating myself and that drowns my motivation sometimes. On the other hand it's a very good feeling when people come to you after a show and tell you that the message touched them somehow or even changed their behaviour. It shouldn't be seen as preaching or telling people what to do and what not to do, it's about showing them our point of view and confronting the crowd with specific topics.

3. I've got a shirt of yours and i think it's organic and sweatshop free. Is all your merch made this way? How is the response of the consumer? I hear a lot of bands crying that they would also do fair-trade/organic shirts, but it's too expensive. I think most of these bands didn't even try it.

I'm kind of outraged about the fact that nearly no hardcore band is doing fair-trade merch. Talking about human and animal

rights on stage and selling sweatshop shirts? That's where we draw the line and pay 3€ more for a shirt. Fuck exploitation. We don't make as much money as other bands do with merchandising but who cares. It's still possible to sell the shirts for normal prices. We don't have a band to make money, we want to make good music and represent a message of peace and equality. Especially some bigger bands should really think about this option, because they are making a lot of money with merchandising.

4. How do you handle it *in* your personal life? Do you try to buy as much organic and fair-trade stuff (food and clothes) as you *can* get? Isn't an alternative consume the best way to affect the world in a positive way?

I believe that a person can make a difference by choosing an alternative and ethical consume. I still buy a lot of band shirts even if they're not fair-trade, just to support the bands. Food is difficult. I consume both, organic and non-organic stuff but I try to improve myself. I think it's also a great thing to buy more second hand products like clothes or to dumpster-dive food. We have to consume less and these are two good alternatives as well.

5. As a 90's influenced band how do you see the scene in 2011? Do you miss some political statements or just some vegan straight edge bands?

Well we love the 90ies for two reasons: The awesome music and the message that came around back then. We all are around 22 years old so we're definitely too young to compare the "scenes", since we weren't a part of the scene back then. Some new vegan edge bands would be cool though.

6. Not just vegan and sxe was big in the 90's, there was also a lot of religion in hardcore. Christianity and Krishna-core. Do you think it's fine to mix hardcore/sxe with religion or do you see it like Choke (Slapshot) in his song 108 *"You sing about the Straight Edge - Why do you think you're a part of that - When you're god, controls your mind - Weak willed - why don't you take control"*? Is anyone of Unveil believing in any kind of god and do you differ between religion and spirituality like some old Buddhistic way of livings?

No one in UNVEIL believes in a god and I guess no one even has some sort of spirituality. I dislike organised religions, especially if they claim their faith to be the only truth. Religions give people some sort of hold in this world where everything seems hopeless and senseless. The problem is that people believe blindly and misinterpret things. Religions caused wars and are responsible for infiltrating homophobia and sexism into the society, I hate them for what they've done. There's clearly a line between these kind of organised religion and a kind of personal spirituality. I might find my own spirituality someday but I'm not searching for it.

7. *"The death-shadow of our selfish existence will burn this earth to ashes"* This is the main message of your first song of your last 7". How do you see our planet earth in the future? Do you really believe that everything is going down or do you have some last faith in humanity?

That's a hard question that goes through my mind at least once a day. I can't give a proper answer but if we continue this way (which is the most-likely scenario), I see no hope for a peaceful

future. Things will change in the coming century. I'm not a prophet, I can't tell you exactly what's going to happen but people will suffer and other species will suffer and this is why I don't want to take part in this development.

8. Everything is growing faster and bigger these days. Technical advancements every single second. Huge cities arise out of dust. Smartphones, Tablet PCs, cheap flights around the globe, HDTV, hybrid cars... Real advancements for the society or just senseless waste of nature's resources? Shouldn't we accept that *"developing"* isn't always needed so we can stay at one level, take a deep breath and think twice before we move on?

Well yes, I do agree with you but the problem is that our system is based on economic growth. I don't know how to change the system, all I can do is changing myself. Furthermore I have to admit that I use and possess a lot of unnecessary stuff, I don't have a clean slate. Humans are prying as hell and if researches or technical progress begin it's hard to keep them from going further and further. Never satisfied and never finding peace – that's the human character I guess. Something like a curse. We have different point of views on this topic inside the band though.

9. Do you think it's ok getting children in such an overpopulated world? Do you think adopting kids is a good alternative?

I don't think that I'm a person that can judge if having babies or not is ok. Of course if you think rationally, it doesn't make sense

to increase the number of humans but if you're a die-hard rational it's the best for the planet if you commit suicide I guess. There are also other components to consider if you want to make up your mind about children. Having a child gives you a reason to live, something you have to care for and it might fill your heart with love. I understand that people are looking for something to live for. Again we have different point of views on this inside the band.

10. Vegetarism, veganism and organic food is getting more and more popular outside the hc-scene. TV, magazines, newspapers, internet... this green revolution seems omnipresent. Do you think humanity is on the right path or is this just a hype of hyprocrisy after swine flu and dioxin scandals?

Being a vegan is definitely easier now than 20 years ago. I see kind of a green trend developing in Europe. I think even if it's a trend, it's a good thing and the message will reach more than a small hardcore-show audience. I wouldn't say we're on the right path because a green capitalism is still an exploiting system based on growth. I'm curious about how long this trend will last and whether it will decrease or increase.

11. We, the vegans, don't just want to protect the animals

caught in cages, we are also about to safe nature's beauty. Do you take time to enjoy some (nearly) untouched places to forget all about civilization and humanity? I think Switzerland got lots of good places to go hiking or to ride a mountain bike.

Thomas does a lot of alpine sports. I love spending time in the nature as well. Switzerland has an awesome nature but you won't find anything that is *"untouched"*. It's becoming a quite serious political debate in Switzerland these days, the *"chopping up of landscape"* through roads, and civilisation in general.

12. What are Unveil's plans for the future? Hope to see some tours and new records!

We are currently writing new songs for a full length which will be out in winter 2011 through Catalyst Records from the USA and Cobra Records from Germany. We're excited about it and it will be our best material so far.

Further we'll release a CD-compilation of our old records called *"early EP's"* on Vegan Records in South America sometime in summer 2011.

13. Favourite animal rights song? Favourite straight edge song?

Edge:

Unbroken – Absentee Debate (this is totally about straight edge for me)

Judge – Fed Up!

Animal Liberation:

Outspoken – Survival

7 Generations – No Other Way

Pulling Teeth – Dead Is Dead

My bandmates would probably add some Earth Crisis songs as well!

14. Ok, thanks for taking some time. Good luck with your band and take care. Any final words?

Thank you for asking us the questions!

Check out our blog / page: www.xunveilx.com and go vegan!

VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE

Reflections on Humynity

When will they see? When will they hear? When will they act? When will they change? I can't stop to wonder *"why?"*. I can't stop to ask myself why they choose death before life. Why aren't they able to change their consuming habits which are based on egoism. They could safe so many innocent beings. Why do most humyns don't question the popular moral of us being superior to nature and our fellow earthlings?

We support the destruction of our environment, the abuse and killing of our non-humyn animal companions just because of common *"values"* like wealth and power and the *"delight"* of food with an animal origin. Is this all worth all the pain? No!

Clearly our life on mother earth causes damage at many points. And first of all I have to say: I do not want to encourage us to feel of ashamed on our presence on planet earth! We have the right to live and develop like every other being!

But for survival we need to change. We need to change our attitude. We need to appreciate our given goods and stop screaming for more and more. We need to appreciate having the chance to live free in this this wonderful place. We have to question the necessity of more technology for no matter what. We need to understand that every individual someday will die and that there is no fucking cure for that. We need to learn to feel compassionate. We need to learn to respect ourselves and other earthlings. We need to change our view on nature into a positive understanding. If it is not already to late.

I do not have an *"Instructions Manual For Good Life"* and I do not consider the following suggestions as one, but at least I can guarantee you that even practising some points of them will lead to a better life for all of us... (in no particular order):

- **Stop discriminate/judging humyn and non-humyn animals** by race, species, gender, sexual-orientation, age, looks, wealth etc.
- **Adopt a vegan life.** Quit consuming the dead flesh of animals and their eggs and milk. Do it for the animals, for the environment and for your health and cleansing.
- **Go dumpster-diving. Grow your own food.** If not possible: buy local food at independed stores. Buy organic. Buy healthy, quit buying processed food.
- **Adopt a drug-free life.** Quit alcohol & cigarettes, marijuana and other drugs. Keeping a sane mind and body helps you to recognize problems surrounding you and help finding solutions for them. The drug industry is involved in horrible animal testing, violations of humyn rights, destruction of mother nature. Their drugs are killing thousands and thousands of people each year. Either directly by consuming or indirectly by the drugged harming/killing innocents.
- **Get your clothes at free stores, second-hand stores or fair-traded.** Donate clothes you

don't use to the needy and free stores.
- **Use/buy recycled paper.** Use papers on both sides.
- **Save water.** Going vegan is probably the most effective way.
- **Save energy.** Switch to renewable resources.
- **Sort your waste.**
- **Try turning off the computer/other devices** *"from time to time"* and especially when you're not using them.
- **Read *(more)* (political) books.** You'll find lots of good ones in your trusted distros and alternative bookshops. If you don't have the money, go lend them, ask friends f.e.
- **Support your local hardcore scene** by going to shows, community meals and potlucks.
- **Support artists and individuals** by: buying music, buying fair-traded merch, buying fanzines. If you got no money: encourage them and ask them if you can help them out somehow!
- **Do it yourself!** Create music, organize shows, solidarity-parties, community meals, potlucks and reader circles, create distros, create/contribute to fanzines,
- **Get involved!** Organize/get involved in demonstrations/campaigns/form groups... there are no limits!
- **Speak up!** Help your community. Help the needy. Keep your eyes open in the streets and act *up* against violence, if needed organize defense.
- **Show solidarity!** Write to political prisoners, make art for them, talk to others about their case
- **Be revolutionary! Be the change!** Don't compromise if you don't feel comfortable.
- **At last: don't hesitate to inform yourself** further on these topics and to send me your suggestions and/or critics!

Thank you! 4Paws (from an area called Germany)
Contact: 4pawsrap@web.de

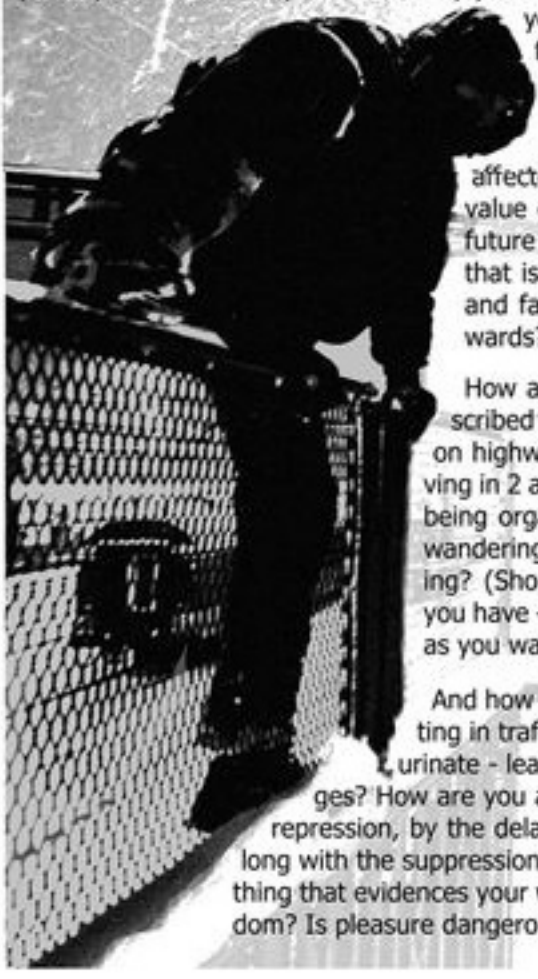
The Contents of Your Daily Life http://www.crimethinc.com/texts/

How many hours a day do you spend in front of a television screen? A computer screen? Behind an automobile windscreen? All three screens combined? What are you being screened from? How much of your life comes at you through a screen, vicariously?

Is watching things as exciting as doing things? Do you have enough time to do all the things that you want to? Do you have enough energy to? Why? And how many hours a day do you sleep? How are you affected by standardized time, designed solely to synchronize your movements with those of millions of other people? How long do you ever go without knowing what time it is? Who or what controls your minutes and hours? The minutes and hours that add up to your life? Are you saving time? Saving it up for what?

Can you put a value on a beautiful day, when the birds are singing and people are walking around together? How many dollars an hour does it take to pay you to stay inside and sell things or file papers? What can you get later that will make up for this day of your life?

How are you affected by being in crowds, by being surrounded by anonymous masses? Do you find yourself blocking your emotional responses to other human beings? And who prepares your meals? Do you ever eat by yourself? Do you ever eat standing up? How much do you know about what you eat and where it comes from? How much do you trust it?



What are we deprived of by labor-saving devices? By thought-saving devices? How are you affected by the requirements of efficiency, which place value on the product rather than the process, on the future rather than the present, the present moment that is getting shorter and shorter as we speed faster and faster into the future? What are we speeding towards? Are we saving time? Saving it up for what?

How are you affected by being moved around in prescribed paths, in elevators, buses, subways, escalators, on highways and sidewalks? By moving, working, and living in 2 and 3 dimensional grids? How are you affected by being organized, immobilized, and scheduled rather than wandering, roaming freely and spontaneously? Scavenging? (Shoplifting?) How much freedom of movement do you have - freedom to move through space, to move as far as you want, in new and unexplored directions?

And how are you affected by waiting? Waiting in line, waiting in traffic, waiting to eat, waiting for the bus, waiting to urinate - learning to punish and ignore your spontaneous urges? How are you affected by holding back your desires? By sexual repression, by the delay or denial of pleasure, starting in childhood, along with the suppression of everything in you that is spontaneous, everything that evidences your wild nature, your membership in the animal kingdom? Is pleasure dangerous?

Could danger be joyous? Do you ever need to see the sky? (Can you see many stars in it any more?) Do you ever need to see water, leaves, foliage, animals? Glinting, glimmering, moving? Is that why you have a pet, an aquarium, houseplants? Or are television and video your glinting, glimmering, moving? How much of your life comes at you through a screen, vicariously? If your life was made a movie, would you watch it? How do you feel in situations of enforced passivity?

How are you affected by a non-stop assault of symbolic communication - audio, visual, print, billboard, video, radio, robotic voices - as you wander through a forest of signs? What are they urging upon you? Do you ever need solitude, quiet, contemplation? Do you remember it? Thinking on your your own, rather than reacting to stimuli? Is it hard to look away?

Is looking away the very thing that is not permitted? Where can you go to find silence and solitude? Not white noise, but pure silence? Not loneliness, but gentle solitude? How often have you stopped to ask yourself questions like these? Do you find yourself committing acts of symbolic violence? Do you ever feel lonely in a way that words cannot even express?

Do you sometimes feel yourself ready to

LOSE CONTROL?

ONE SOLUTION - REVOLUTION

Our war is a war without borders or flags, without clear enemies or predefined objectives. Capitalism, authority, domination are all more tendencies than specific individuals or buildings - although over the millennia these tendencies have manifested themselves to a dangerous degree in certain people and institutions, even ourselves sometimes. We must first acknowledge this in order to fight back.

We were always for the war, and we will always be for the war – and our war is not the same the as the hate-mongering wars of any religious fanatic or any foul government. We are for the war which we fight every day when we struggle to live and die with dignity, in harmony with the earth and each other. Our war is being waged by all those who suffer under the thumb of this insane world order, by all those who realize that we have nothing left to lose control over – and our own lives to gain.

Can you hear the wind calling your name? Will you be the one who lights the spark that starts the flame? For this we promise you – as this world and its wars ends in flames we will be there with you, holding your hand and planting a kiss ever so gently upon you.

no matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world